SOME

Reasonable Precautions

TO

All that have any Vote or Influence in Electing the Magistrates, Town-Council, and Deacons of the City of *Edinburgh*.

When the Righteous are in Authority, the People Rejoice: But when the wicked beareth rule, the People mourn. Prov; 29. 2.

Run ye to and fro through the Streets of Jerusalem, *and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if you can find a Man, if there be any that executeth Judgment, that seeketh the Truth, and I will Pardon it.* Jerem: 5. 1.

By Alexander Monteith present Deacon of ye Chyrurgeons in Edinburgh & present Counsellor yr

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Some Precautions, to all that have any Vote or Influence in Electing the Magistrates, Town-Council, and Deacons of the City of Edinburgh.

HAVING some time ago accidentally had occasion to see a late printed Letter concerning the Magistracy of the City of *Glasgow*, and the Management of its Common-Good; wherein there seems to be a very plain and demonstrative Discovery of several unaccountable Intrigues, through the whole Course of that Affair, ever since that City had the Grant and Power of a free Election of their Magistrates in the Year 1690. I was thereby prompted to make some enquiry into those Measures that have been taken upon the like occasions in *Edinburgh*, whose Example (whether Good or Bad) as being the Metropolis or Head-City of the Kingdom, must more Naturally diffuse the like Effect through the whole Body of the Royal-Burrows; and ought therefore to be the more carefully looke after; because a Gangrene in the Head brings always a more speedy and certain ruin, than if it were in some inferior and less Noble part of the Body.

The Magistracy of *Edinburgh*, I find, has in all times, been so much Courted, and so much Pains have Men taken to thrust themselves into it, that it would seem to carry something more along with it than a bare Title of Honour.

There is an excellent Constitution made by way of Decreet Arbitral, pronounced by *K. Ja. 6th.* and other Judges Arbitrators, in the Year 1583, which not only determines Differences which then were amongst Citizens about the Magistracy; but lays also down a plain and direct Method of Election, determines the time of the Continuation of the Magi-

ſtracy and Council, and ſeems to be ſo contrived, that at firſt view one would think it impoſſible to contrive any thing that might elude the deſign, or continue a Party or Faction upon the Council.

Yet this good Conſtitution did not continue long when it was manifeſtly eluded by Ambitious and Ill-deſigning Men, who even at that time, when every Article of it was freſh in Memory, the Arbitrators and Umpire, who framed and pronounced it, being ſtill alive, in the Year 1587. *Michael Gilbert*, is a ſecond year Baillie; whereas the Sett is plain, That none ſhould be continued upon the Council above two Years together, except by vertue of his Office: But being two Years Baillie by virtue of his Office, he muſt be a third Year upon the Council, as old Baillie.

Thereafter, from *Michaelmaſs* 1587, till *Michelmaſs* 1591, *John Arnot* is continued Provoſt, which is four years, and after that, from the year 1592, till the year 1608. They choſe Noblemen and Gentlemen to be their Provoſts, when *John Arnot*, and afterwards Sir *John Arnot*, gets himſelf again thruſt in, and continues Provoſt till the 1615, which is Seven Years; So that the Affairs of the City were ſtill governed by one Faction or Sett of Men, which at length conveyed the Provoſtſhip to *David Aikenhead*, who was firſt choſen Provoſt in the Year 1619, continued till 1620, was choſen again 1624, in the 1625, he yeilded it to Sir *John Arnot*, who was become an old Man, and next year 1626, it is again devolved upon *David Aikenhead*, who continues then Four Years Provoſt, and in the 1630, was thruſt out by *Alexander Clark*, who continued Four Years, whereby *David Aikenhead*'s Patience was ſo wearied by being ſo long out of Office, that he reſolves to Sacrifice the Town's Liberty and Freedom of Election, rather than be keep't any longer out of the Chair: He therefore at *Michelmaſs* 1634 procures a Letter from the King to the then Magiſtrates and Council of *Edinburgh*, ordaining them to put *David Aikenhead* in the Leit to be Provoſt, and to put on the Leit to be Baillies, *Alexander Speir*, *Archibald Tod*, *Edward Edgar*, and *Alexander Deniſton*, and on the Leits of the Dean of Guild, to put on *John Sinclair*, and on the Treaſurer's Leit *David Mackcal*; And his Majeſty's will was, That thoſe perſons ſhould be made choice of, at the time of Election, to the ſaid places, where they were Leited, which accordingly was done, and *David Aikenhead* continued till *Michaelmaſs* 1636, which was Three Years: Afterwards it came by turns to ſeveral hands untill *Mechaelmaſs* 1650, from which time there was no Magiſtracy till *March* 1652, becauſe of the troubles of the times, but the Affairs of the Town were governed by a Committee of the Neighbourhood, to the great Satisfaction of the Citizens. In the

Years,

Years 1653 and 54, there was no Election but those who were chosen at *Michaelmass* 1652 were continued without Election, by an Order of the *English* Council of State. At *Michelmass* 1655, *Andrew Ramsay* was chosen Provost, who continued Three years; at which time the Council perceiving his grand design of continuing himself in the Office, and that none were like to be brought upon the Council, but such as should have a dependance upon him thought fit to prevent such practices, by an Act made in *October* 1658, wherein it was Enacted, *That in all time coming, the Provost, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer of this Burgh, shall not be Elected, or continued in their respective Offices longer then One, or at the most Two Years together at on time. And that the Baillies of this burgh, in all time hereafter, shall be one Year Baillie, one Year Old Baillie, and one Year free of Office, and shall not be put in the Leits to be Bailiss untill those years be past.*

The Council resting secure upon this Act, which they now reckoned a part of their Constitution in the year 1662, do again choose Sir *Andrew Ramsay* to be Provost, who in the time of his 2 years, gets a Council of his own Creatures again, and to make all sure, rescinds the Act made in *October* 1658, and continues himself Provost till the 1673 year of GOD, which was 12 years; So that not only the Neighbourhood, but his own Creatures and Council growing weary of his Government; They raised a Declarator before the Lords of Session of the Towns Priviledges, the event of which Process, was, That they decerned, that the said Act 1658 should be revived and further secured, and a considerable Penalty and Oath adjected to be taken by every Member of the Council upon the day of Election, and accordingly they made an Act in *March* 1673, ratifying and reviving the Act made in *October* 1658, and rescinding Sir *Andrew*'s Act made in *October* 1664, declaring it Void and Null, and to be prejudicial and Derogatory to the Laws and Acts of Parliament, and to the Sett and Decreet Arbitral, and to the fundamenral Liberty and Priviledges of this Burgh; and ordains the whole Magistrats, Council, and Deacons of Crafts, to take an Oath for the inviolable observation of the said Act in all time coming, and do by their solemn Oath *in verbis de presenti* protest before Almighty GOD, that they shall observe this Act in all the Heads, Clauses, and Articles thereof inviolably in all time coming; which Oath is Administrat every year before they proceed to the Election, and how well it has been observed shall appear by and by.

The Affair of the Election being again brought into its right Channel, it was not long e're those in the Magistracy fell upon new Contrivances and Methods to elude all Laws and Constitutions that were made to pre-

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vent continuing of Men and Factions upon the Council, among many others there was one which was to secure the Election of the Deacons of Crafts, which is the first step of the Election, and all the subsequent steps in Electing the Council and Magistrats having a great dependance upon that; The ancient Custom is, That the Incorporations give in Six Persons in their Leits to the Council, who out of these Six chuse three who are returned to the Incorporation, and they out of these three chuse their Deacon; This Custom was founded upon the Sett, which says, *That the Council shall call in before them the several Deacons of Crafts, and enquire their Opinion and Judgment of the best and worthiest of their Crafts, and thereafter shall Leit three Persons of the most Discreet, Godly, and Qualified Persons of every one of the saids 14 Crafts.* Notwithstanding of which, the Magistrates without regarding the Leits of Six given in by the Incorporations, ordinarly would give out three which were not in the Incorporation's Leits, and of those three, one should be the Man whom the Provost designed; the other two, were either Town-Pensioners, Officers, or in some of the Hospitals, and some times living in the Abby for Debt, so that the Incorporations were forced to chuse the Provost's Man, but not being able to ly long under this Oppression, they raised a Declarator of that Priviledge before the Lords of Session, who determined in their favours in the year 1683. It was about this time that the King by vertue of his absolute Power, did by his Letter nominat the Provosts of Burghs-Royal, and amongst others those of *Edinburgh*; So that they needed no Counsellors but such as would comply with the times, and by such were the Towns Affairs and Common-Good managed, till the year 1689, at which time the popular Election set things at right again by Electing Sir *John Hall* and others, who received the Towns Common-Good, burdened (as I am credibly informed) with 760000 *lib.* of Debt. But it is very remarkable, That the Towns Common-Good at *Michaelmas* 1677, when Sir *Francis Kinloch* was made Provost, being just four years after Sir *Andrew Ramsay* went off, was in Debt only 400000 *lib.* or little more; which the said Sir *Francis* caused to be marked in the Council-Records, the several principal Sums in one Column, and the Annual rent due upon them in another Column, and made an Act in Council, That every year at the Election of the Magistrats, the Towns Debts should be thus Recorded, that every set of Magistrats might see what they had bettered or worsed the Common-Good by their Management: But this was too Good an Act to be kept in Practice; this might have been away to have raised Emulation

tion among the Magistrats, and then the Places had not been worth seeking after; Besides, it opens a Window that every sneaking Fellow of a Deacon can look in, and count the Magistrats Mouth-bitts, yet this Debt was not encreased for six years thereafter: For at *Michaelmass* 1683. when Sir *George Drummond* came to be Provost, it was only 400000 *lib.* in Debt, but in the 1689, when Sir *John Hall* came to be Provost, it is found to be 760000 *l.* so that in five or six years there is contracted of principal Sums 360000 *l.*

This was the effect of the Nomination of Provosts by the King, who doubtless they thought would support them and their Managements, since they were to sacrifice the Town's Priviledges, Common-Good, and themselves, Soul and Body, to his intereſt, against all deadly upon Demand.

Now the Management being put in good hands by the popular Election, it was next to impossible but the Town must Thrive: And indeed if they had continued as they begun, it mas impossible but the Common-Good had been in a Flourishing condition by this time, for the Magistrats and Council finding the Common-Good in such a condition, they resolved to take all the frugal Methods imaginable; and for that end went very little to Taverns, except when the Affairs of the Town absolutely required it, and frequently these little Charges were out of the Magistrats own Pockets; But Sir *John Hall*, as he was Frugal, so he was both honest to the Town, and aboundantly Generous when the Towns Affairs called for it; for in four years after his being chosen Provost first, which was at *Michaelmas* 1693, there was not a farthing Debt contracted; and if his Advice had been taken, and things had been managed as he intended, a good part of the Towns Debt might have been payed by this time, but as he was an entirely honest Man himself, so he believed every Body to be as Honest; whereby some cunning Sycofants and self designing Men got themselves easily thrust in upon his Council, who by degrees have brought it so about, that at *Michaelmass* 1696. the Towns Common-Good was indebted upwards of 800000 *l.* notwithstanding that they had received three years of the two Penniesupon the Pint of Ale, which was sett for about 48000 *l. per Annum*, which is 144000 *l.* so that in three years time this 144000 *l.* and 40000 *l.* of new contracted Debt is spent, or sunk, which in all is 184000 *l.*

I know to this it will be objected, That these first three years were given for bygon Annualrents and Expenses in procuring of the Act of Parliament

Parliament, and that it is well known that this Act ſtood them 3000 *lib. Sterling*, which is 36000 *lib.* and that there were conſiderable Annualrents owing, when that was procured; but allowing the 36000 *lib*, it is falſe that there were any Annualrents owing; for Sir *John Hall* in his Anſwers to a Libel raiſed before the Privy Council againſt him and others, when he was choſen Provoſt a Second time at *Michaelmaſs* 1693; does poſitively affirm, that ſince the Revolution, there had been no Money borrowed for payment of Annualrents: But on the contrary, ſome principal Sums had been payed, which I think ſhould not have been done if any Annualrents had been owing, and the enſuing Seſſion of Parliament, which was ſoon after, granted the 2 Pennies upon the Pint: But the Seeds of Miſmanagement were ſoon ſow'n in the Council, after Sir *John Hall* demitted his Provoſtſhip in the Year 1691, for being ſucceeded by Sir *Archibald Mure*, a peice of Policy then took place, which was ſtollen from the Hiſtory of Sir *Andrew Ramſay*'s Government; and that was, that he ſhould not have wiſer Magiſtrats then himſelf. And indeed it were hard, if not impoſſible in *Edinburgh* to find ſuch; but I am ſure better might have been had at the time. The firſt good thing done by the then Council, was to Elect a Treaſurer that ſhould be a good eaſie Man, and would not differ upon ſmall matters with the Provoſt, and a Man of Reputation and Conſcience; and that he might not be in a Capacity to uſe any of the Towns Money upon his own Trade, during his Office; he muſt be one, that the beſt of his Trade all his days has been to ſell Two-Penny Ale, a good Accomptant who keept all his Accompts upon Nick-ſticks, and was ſure to Ballance his Accompts with Profit, when they come the length of a Score of Ale: But that the Council might believe him to be an excellent Accomptant, he refuſes to accept unleſs they would ordain the Towns Accompts to be keeped after the *Italian* manner, that the ſtate of their Affairs might be always in view, which accordingly was done, and a Book-keeper choſen: But behold when the Books come to be ballanced and given in to the Council, there is no Accompt of Caſh kept in theſe Books, neither a Caſh Book, for which the Book-keeper anſwered, that he was not allowed to keep any ſuch Accompt by the Treaſurer; for he did not tell him when he received any Money, nor when he payed Annualrents, only the Accompts of Quarterly Penſioners Salleries, Miniſters Stipends, and Monthly incidents were given in, and Booked Annualrents but once in the Year, and this was his way of it, yet he was

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very Conscientious Man, , for he would trust no Cashier but himself, and would let none of it go to a wrong use, or if it did by the Councils order, that he could not help, but be sure it should cost the Knave that was to receive it something: As for Example, if an Episcopal Minister had gotten a Precept upon him, he thought such a Miscreant would apply this to the prejudice of the Church, and therefore before he should have it, a Present must be made of some considerable Peice of Plate or so; Or if a Mason had wrought at any of the Town's publick Works, and got an Act for his Accompt, he thinks it unreasonable this Fellow should have all his own Demands, seing his Servants loose from their work at Day-light going in the Winter time, and yet will have as much Wages as in the Summer, but the Fellow being a rugged Ill-natured Dog, tells him, he has wrought for it with the Sweat of his Brows, and therefore will be payed, or he'l know wherefore, but still the Treasurer is not in Cash, all the Year over, and therefore he must have Patience, till at length a Friend advises him to make some Present to the Treasurer, and rather than he should be wanting in that Peice of his Duty, which might make him lye out of his Money long enough, gives him a handsom Gun well mounted to present the Treasurer with, which no sooner is done, but he's an Honest Man, and gets payment of his Accompt. By this and some other such like Machines, there is a way paved for an excellent Management; So that when Sir *John Hall* comes to the Chair again in the year 1693, he finds, although there had been yet no Debt contracted, by reason that there were some of the good Managers still upon the Council, all these two years he was off, who were Checks upon those that might have intended ill things, yet he was like to find things in a quite other posture then he left them; for Sir *Archibald* had in the 2 years of his Office, got a Tack of the Foreign Customs, and Excise in Name of the Royal-Burrows, at least pretending to have a Commission from them when he had for it, which made Gentlemen that would have perhaps gone a greater length ly off, so that he got a good enough Bargain; But the particular Burghs having given no such Instructions to their Commissioners, refused to hold, so that it fell in Sir *Archibalds* own hand and his Partners; By this means Sir *Archibald* was in a Capacity to oblige his Friends upon the Council, and some of them reaped the Benefit of it. And at the same time, he gets a Creature of his own to be made a Bailie, when Sir *John* was chosen Provost; an Old Renegad Journeyman Taylor, who once made a good Trade of soling of Hose, but at

length turned Pedlar, for there are many such Shop-keepers as he, no better; So that he was sure, that although he should not immediately succeed Sir *John*, in case he should out-live his 2 years, yet he would have party enough on the Council to come in if he pleased soon after, and provides at the same time a good Treasurer, a Man that could Cypher well enough, having been some years a Factor, but of mean Parentage, and far meaner Education, and who in a few years before, when he began to set up, was not in a Capacity to enter Burges and Gild-Brother both at the same time.

Yet this honest Treasurer found a way to purchase a Lairdship in his 2 years Treasurership without wronging the Good Town in a Sixpence; but it was clear enough to the Auditor of his Accompts that he had in Cash of the Towns Money in his hands for 18 Months, at least the Sum of 30 or 40000 *l.* at a time when Money was a good Trade betwixt this and *London*, and with good Management at such a time, he was a *Dunce* if he could not make *Cent per Cent* upon it; and this was no wrong done to the Town, for he payed the Tradesmens Accompts of his time, many of the Annualrents, and brought his Accompts to a very narrow Ballance, and left very few Rests to seek in, and got a good Lairdship to boot, such a Man deserves to live.

Now the poor Town begins to suffer; for such Men being brought into the Council by Sir *Archibald*'s politick Management, in order to pave a way for returning again into the Chair when he should see occasion, and and there being some honest Men upon the Council, who began to discover the Intrigue when it was too late; They raised a Lybel before the Lords of Privy Council, complaining of some Irregularities and wrong steps made in the Election, contrary to the plain meaning of the Sett, which is their Fundamental Constitution, and thereupon, after a full hearing of both Parties, the said Lords declared the last Election Void and Null, yet having the Treasurer upon their side, what could they not do? for the Town has always a good Purse upon such occasions; They procure a Letter from his Majesty to the Lords to Re-consider their Sentence which accordingly was done, and the Election 1693 sustained: And now, all things being secure, they by degrees dwindled these Men out of the Council, who they thought would oppose their Designs, and rack't their Wits to find out fitt Tools to put their designs in Practice; some new-come into the Town, who neither knew nor were known; an other whose first Employment was to keep *Cows*, who at length came to the

Honour

Honour of being a Gentleman's Servant, whose work was to wipe his Masters Boots and Shoos, and to carry his Cloak; but his Master being a Man of publick Employment, he came to be getting now and then half a Merk or a Merk peice in Drink-money, whereby he made some small Stock to Merchandize with, and has accquired some Richs, and therefore wanted nothing but a little Honour to make him great, such a Man is fit to be a Baillie in *Edinburgh*, the Metropolitan and Capital City of the Kingdom; And another, they bring from the Tanning-Trade at the *West-Port*; this is a sober well-meaning Man, and fit for a Baillies Post, because he is a Cousin of Sir *Archibald*'s; and by this means Sir *Archibald* secures his Business so, that although Sir *Robert Cheisly* interveens betwixt Sir *John Hall*'s going off in the 1694, and Sir *Archibalds* returning to the Chair in the 1696, yet it was not in Sir *Robert*'s power to hinder his making way into the Chair again by a fair Vote in Council, although at the same time a certain great Man made no small interest for *George Home* present Provost, notwithstanding of which Sir *Archibaldi* party carried it.

And this occasion must not be lost, to get, if possible, another Tack of the Kings Customs, or some such thing; for the great Politick now seems to be, to make use of the Magistracy as a handle to twist themselves into some publick Tack or other; for the Management of the Towns Affairs must not take up a Mans whole time, he has himself and Family to provide for, and a very luckie occasion offers, the Peace being concluded, the Tack granted about a year before of the Customs to *George Home* and others, falls by a particular Clause in the Tack; then a Convention of the Burrows is called, and there it is Agitated, That it were the Interest of the Royal-Burrows, to have the Tack in their hands, upon two Considerations, 1. That when it is either in Collection, or in Tack to any other body, the Merchants who make up the Body of the Burrows are oppressed, but now they would be in a Condition to give ease to their Neighbours. 2. It might and could hardly fail to be very profitable to the whole Burghs that would be concerned to hold their shares, in respect the Burrows being a whole State of Parliament, it was not to be supposed that the King would suffer them to be losers; However the most part of the Members did demurr upon it, upon several accounts: Some stuck at this, That they had no Instruction from their Constituents, and this being a matter of consequence, they could not meddle with it: Others, That their Burgh lay not conveniently, and they had no Forreign Trade, so

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that they could not see through it: Others again, That the Burghs being a State of Parliament, they did not think it very convenient, that a whole State of Parliament should be concerned in any publick Tack, but if any privat Man, or particular Burges had a mind to it, it was none of the Burrows Business; However, the most leading Men were taken off by Assurance of Beneficial Posts at the most convenient parts their Business lay at, only those that live about *Edinburgh* should be continued Managers, and if any particular Burgh did not incline to hold their share, when their Commissioners returned, those concerned in the Management, were to take it off their hands, upon their refusing to sign a Formula which was drawn up for that purpose: And although it was proposed by several Members, That they should first receive Instructions from their respective Constituents, before they should venture to pass it into an Act, yet the Commissioners for *Edinburgh*, although the Burrows were sitting in their own Burgh, did not think fit to take the Advice of the Town-Council, who were their Constituents, in so important an Affair: But the first News they hear of it, is, That the Royal-Burrows had past an Act, that the Customes should be taken upon the publick Risk and Credit of the Burrows.

The Town Council finding that this would be of dangerous consequence to the Town, in respect, that if there was any loss it would light heavy upon the Common-Good, and that if there was any profit it must be consumed in paying extravagant Sallaries, and go into private Mens Pockets, they refuse positively to be concerned, and the rather because their Commissioners in this Affair had acted without warrant, having no Instructions from them, and being frequently told that it was convenient to call the Council before they should do it, yet did not think fit to do so: Sir *Archibald* meeting with this disappointment in the Council, lays it aside for some days. But the Lords of the Treasury hearing thereof, they refuse to sett the Tack to the Burrows, unless the Town of *Edinburgh* be concerned, not thinking the Common Goods of those Burrows that would hold their shares, security for such a Tack Duty, upon which Sir *Archibald* did so manage the business by promises of beneficial places, as that he himself, the Dean of Gild *Halliburton* and Baillie *Meinzies*, who represented the Burgh of *Lochmaben* should be managers of the Tack, the Treasurer should be conjunct at *Leith* with Baillie *Meinzies*, his Brother in Law *George Lawson*, who was then a Councilour, designed to succeed in the Treasurers Office to *Samuel Mackclellan*, should

should be Collector at *Edinburgh*, and the Deacon Conveener general Surveyer of the Waiters. And taking occasion of some of the Members absence, who he thought would most vigorously oppose it, represents to the Council, that their refusing to lend their Credit for the taking of this Tack, was like to disappoint the Royal Burrows in their design, and of how dangerous consequence that might be to the Town, he could not tell; considering that the Year before at *Perth* upon some conceived prejudice against the Town, they had highted them from 32 *lib.* 8 *ss.* 8 *d.* in the Tack Roll to 40 *lib.* and that still it was in their power to hight them more.

This and many other such Arguments were used to the Members both in private and publick, but yet they demurred till at length the Provost and Baillie *Meinzies* condescends, that the Town shall not run the hazard of Loss, and if they did but lend their Credit in this Affair, they might be Gainers; but that they should be bound to free them of loss; and accordingly a Paper was drawn up to that effect, and signed and depositate in the hands of Baillie *Nairn*, who for ought I know, has it to this day, and then the good Town condescends to hold: yet considerable attempts have been made since, when they found it like to be a profitable Tack to get it out of the Town's hands, as shall be related in its own place.

The Tack was then granted to the Royal Burrows and the management put in the hands of Sir *Archibald Mure*, Sir *James Smallet*, Baillie *Meinzies*, Dean of Gild *Halliburton*, *Dovehill*, &c. the Posts at the several Ports distributed amongst the leading Men of the Burrows, and if they could not gratify all, new Places and Sallaries were invented; and this, must be done to secure a confirmation of the Tack and Managers profits, at the next general Convention at *Aberdeen*, for they knew well that any Act made by this Convention, must be secured by a Ratification of the Annual Convention, and by this means they got their Management secured to them for the whole years of the Tack, at the said general Convention, and then what places were to be disposed of, they gratified their Friends and Benefactors with them.

Sir *Archibald*'s time now drawing near that he must resign his Government to a Successor at *Michaelmass* 1698, the grand design then was, to secure the Succession to some of the Managers of the Tack, that they might have the better opportunity to make it either their own, or the Town's in case of Profit or Loss.

But

But what was like to marr all their Project was, that a certain great Man had a Friend to recommend to the Chair, viz. *George Home* whom they were afraid would be no great Friend to the business of the Tack, yet could not well refuse that Great Man, to put him in the Leit for Provost; And thought they might the easier do it and with less hazard, that they knew he had done such an other peice of service to the Town the preceeding Year, when he had the Tack of the Customs, which was this: There arrives in the Road of *Leith* a Ship belonging to *Glasgow* Merchants loaded with Canary, which he perswades them might be more profitably Sold at *Leith* and *Edinburgh* than in *Holland* whither they were designed, but they being doubtfull the Town would not allow them to sell it, seing they were not Free Men of the Burgh, he assures them that, for a small matter to the poor, they might have the Priviledge, by making a Town's offer, which accordingly they did, and the Town Counci gave their ordinary deliverance upon their Bill, which they use to do in such Cases, which was this, that they allowed them to sell it in whole Sale to the Free-Men of *Edinburgh*, not under the Price offered, and in respect that upon these occasions there is ordinarly half one *per Cent.* to be payed to the Poor for this Priviledge, which in so valuable a Cargo would amount to a considerable Sum, the Council therfore modifies the Composition to 15 *lib Sterl.* and ordains the Dean of Gild to exact no more; but this did not satisfie, the strangers not knowing how whole Sale might be interpreted, would not enter their Wine, but he again assures them that if the Town Council would not allow it to be understood, that selling of single Casks great or small as it came there, to be selling in whole Sale, he would procure an Act of the Privy Council explaining the Town Councils deliverance, and accordingly without speaking to the Provost or any other of the Members of the Town Council, he and his Partners went to my Lord Chancellor and other Members of the Privy Council then in Town, and lays the Matter before his Lordship, telling with all, how prejudicial it would be to His Maiesty's Customs if such a Cargo were suffered to be carried to *Holland*, whereupon the Provost is sent for, and being Interrogat what the Town Council of *Edinburgh* did understand by whole sale, and seeing the Tacksmen of the Customs present, he understood presently the design, and therefore gave his Answer, That he was but one Member of the Council, and could not presume to give their Answer in any such Matter; But being again asked, what his own Opinion was, or what was ordinarly understood

sold by Merchants by that word? He told, that for the most part it was thought to be a whole Cargo of parcel of Goods belonging to one Man, or Company of Merchants in Co-partnership, or at least one Proprietor's part of the Cargo, to one Company or one Man; but the Lords thought that too narrow, and were of Opinion, that the selling of Wine in Cask as it came home, even through a quarter Pipe, was whole sale, and that the selling out in Pipe, Hogshead &c. was retailing. Upon which the Privy Council enters the next day, where the Town of *Edinburgh* produces their Rights, and were heard by their Advocats; yet the Lords did allow the selling of this Cargo in Casks, great or small to be whole-sale, but prejudice to the Town of *Edinburgh*'s Rights; and this should not be a precedent for the like Cases in time coming, but for the present case only. This was an excellent peice of service done to the Town by a Burger, and one that had been some time before aiming at the Provostship; So that Sir *Archibald* thought there was no hazard in putting him in the Leet, considering how he had recommended himself to the Neighbourhood by this peice of service, but was sure to put in two with him of the foresaid Managers of the Tack, to wit, Dean of Guild *Halliburton*, and Bailie *Monteith*. When the Deacons of Crafts, and other Well-wishers to the Town see the Leet, they did not well know at first which hand to turn them to; for if any of the Managers of the Tack should be chosen, they foresaw the Hazard the Town was like to run; and if they should chuse a Man recommended by a great Man, they thought that no better than the Kings Nomination by his Letter in the late Government: and what the consequences of that was, was but fresh in their Memory, knowing very well that one so recommended must be Obsequious to his Creator's Nod, and if once it came in that Channel, it should not be easie to bring it right again.

In the midst of these difficulties, some of the good Neighbours meet with him to know his Mind in case he should be Elected Provost, as to the business of the Tack, and some other things which were asked him, to whom he declared with uplifted Hands, That he should never condescend to the Town's quitting their interest in the Tack, nor should do nothing of any great consequence without the Advice of the Well-wishing Neighbours, and that he should do what in him lay to bring some of those honest Men to succeed him, who were turned out of the Council in the 1693, and 1694, this he solemnly promised, I shall not say swore, but I am sure with an uplifted Hand before famous Witnesses, upon which they soon came to a Resolution to chuse him.

Now

Now he's first in the Chair, and the first use he makes of his Promotion, is to joyn with a part of the old Gentlemen of Sir *Archibald*'s Faction, to get into the Commissariot, so that this peice of Policy is not like to go down, That the *Provost* of *Edinburgh* must be in some quick Tack or other.

Sir *Archibald* now understands very well how to bait his Hook to catch such a great Fish as this; and therefore undertaking that Mr. *Mackleod* and Mr. *David Dalrymple* would be content to sell their office of Clerkship to the Town, he offers Provost *Howie* his service to get his Son admitted conjunct Clerk with the Lord Advocats Nephew Mr. *Stewart*, providing he would purchase the present Clerks Good-will, being sure to get an Act of Council for his Admission.

This is a considerable peice of Service, and deserves a very grateful Resentment: The Provost therefore thinks he can do no less than at Sir *Archibalds* desire to quit the Towns Interest in the Tack, although their Credit be engaged to the Lords of the Treasury for the Tack-duty, and take Sir *Archibald* and others Bond for their Relief, and after things are rightly prepared, an extraordinary Council is called for that effect, but the Business having come abroad among the Neighbours, the Councellors are accosted upon all hands, and the thing plainly opened up to them: Sir *Archibald* finding this, Offers 2 or 3 Hundred Guineas to the Poor for the Towns Good-will of it, but 500 Pound Sterl. was offered by another honest Neighbour not upon the Council; And it was offered by a Gentleman, That if the Town would put their interest in the Tack to Rent, he would have given 1000 *l Sterl.* before he wanted it, and pay it over the Boord: The Council refuses to do it, which did not a little cast down the Provost and Sir *Archibald*, but they would not give such a Blow without giving his Lordship at the same time a Cordial to support his drouping Spirits; so that they make an Act, That if any of their new chosen Clerks shall chance to die before he has been six years in Office, he, his Heirs, or Assigneys shall have a just Title to the Emoluments of these six years.

Now to consider this aright, these Gentlemen have no very ill bargain of the Clerkship; for although it cost them about 30000 Merks, yet *communibus annis* it is reckoned worth 5000 Merks; Now six years Emoluments secured to them will be 60000 Merks, so they have of Nett Money to accept of a Place of 10000 Merks per *Annum* 30000 Merks, yet this was but a small Affair not worth the taking the Advice of good Friends and Neighbours in.

The

The Election at *Michaelmas* 1699 draws near, and although there was no Provoſt to be changed this year, yet a Council muſt be had, that may be fit Tools againſt the next Election, that a good Provoſt might be ſecured to ſucceed himſelf, and although the ordinary Politicks were uſed at the Election of the Deacons, yet things there ſucceeded not as he intended, and particularly Mr. *Monteith* was choſen to be Deacon of the Chirurgeons and Deacon Conveener of the Trades, who tho' one of Sir *Archibald Muir*'s Minions, being the only Man that was moſt Active in bringing him on the Provoſtſhip for the ſecond time, at *Michaelmas* 1696, yet having ſome experience of his Carriage on the Council, when he was formerly Deacon-Conveener, he was affraid he ſhould be uneaſy to him & thwart ſome of his Deſigns, not ſo much out of Zeal for the Town's intereſt, as out of ill Nature, and the ill will he bore his Lordſhip, and really there may be ſome reaſon to believe it; for if Mr. *Monteith*'s Zeal for the Town's intereſt had been what he pretended, the Declarator which he raiſed in Name of the Trades upon points of Priviledge, and ſome Miſmanagements, ſhould have comprehended a certain Act of Council, which might in time have been a greater Bulwark againſt Faction and Miſmanagement, than all theſe imaginary Priviledges, ſcarcely worth a Farthing, and might have ſecured againſt Miſmanagement in time coming; and that is an Act of Council ſtanding in full force, never yet repelled, nor ſo much as ever propoſed by any Man to be reſcinded, although there is not a Member of the Council but knows it, *That no Deacon or Tradeſman upon the Council, ſhall be employed in the Town's work*; This Act the Deacon Conveener was not ignorant of, and knew the bad Effects and Conſequences of its not being obſerved, yet would not raiſe a Declarator upon that; So that moſt reaſonably it may be concluded, that the Declarator raiſed by him, was not ſo much out of Zeal for the Town's intereſt, as to gratify his own Humour; but what ever were his Motives, the Provoſt ſoon found a way to get him turned out of the Council, by raiſing a Proceſs againſt him before the Privy Council, for proteſting againſt the Baillie of the *Cannongat*'s being received, after he was, as he thought, illegally Elected, ſo the Privy Council turns him out, and deſervedly, for his indiſcretion.

The Neighbours then begin to change their Opinion of their Provoſt, and think, That if he deſigned Sir *Archibald Mure* to ſucceed him, he had not endeavoured to turn out Mr. *Monteith*, who was always upon Sir *Archibalds* ſide, but that Baillie *Johnſtoun* is the Man deſigned, an honeſt Gentleman of entire Credit and Reputation, extreamly well fitted for

 the

the Poſt, and who wants not great Men and Good Friends to ſupport him in any difficulty that may occur during the time of his Adminiſtration, and will be fit for any publick Poſt, Employment, or Tack, that the Provoſtſhip can advance him to, and who will not let that peice of *Edinburgh* Policy fall, that their Provoſt ſhould ſtill be concerned in publick Tacks: And beſides, if what is the ordinary diſcourſe of the City concerning him, may be Credited, he has another very good Qualification, wherein our Provoſts have been very defective of late, that he is very kind to the Female Sex; nay that we had not ſuch a well Qualified Provoſt that way ſince King *Solomon*'s days.

But as *George Home*'s Management of the Town's Affairs has been always attended with a great deal of Foreſight, Prudence, Honeſty, and Diſcretion; So he appeared no leſs Vigorous, ready and reſolute in the Town's Preſervation, when threatned with a dreadful and univerſal Conflagration, and that every body thought it ſhould have been in a few Hours reduced to Aſhs, which God in his Infinit Mercy prevented; and as a Teſtimony of his readineſs of Wit and good Intention to preſerve the City, he preſently ſets all the Town's Officers and Servants to work, but ſeing the fire broke out pretty near his own Lodging, this came very readily in his Mind, *Tum tua res agitur paries cum proximus ardet.* And thought it moſt reaſonable to begin at home, and ſo all hands are ſet at work to carry out his Lordſhips Furniture, and that of the other Magiſtrats who lived there-abouts, ſo that, come of the Town what will, they were ſure not to loſe a Groats worth, (unleſs they were Heretors or Landlords) all being ſecured in the Council-Houſe, under a guard, which ſome People ſaid might have been as well employed elſe-where.

But now, the Fire was ſo far advanced towards the *Parliament Cloſs*, that there was no ſtopping of it.

I know his Lordſhips Well-wiſhers will ſay, That the Tradeſmen and others that uſe to work upon ſuch occaſions, would not appear by reaſon of the late Diſ-obligement they had met with in turning out their Deacon-Conveener; I cannot ſay but that might cool the courage of ſome ſilly Men amongſt them, but that this was the reaſon I Cannot think; for the moſt part of the conſiderable Maſters in Town, did go and work to the manifeſt hazard of their lives, and carried all their Servants along with them, but when they came to call for Water, behold the Town's Pipes were empty for ſeveral Hours, and not one drop of Water to be had: Beſides, I heard one of the ordinary Work-men about the Town

ſay,

say that he was a Mad-man that would go & hazard his Life there, when at the last occasion of that nature, although they had wrought well, and master'd the fire before it did any considerable Damage, yet they were payed at the Rate of 14 pence *per* peice; & the greatest gratification that was given, was half a Crown, and who would be such a fool to hazard his Life against the Flames for such a reward, when they were that Night getting Guineas for carrying of Burdens at places of the Town where the Flames had not yet come.

But that he might yet signalize himself by some good Action for the good Town before he yeild the Chair to a Successor, he thinks there will be nothing more grateful to the Citizens, than to free them from Watching and Warding, and therefore will have a Mercenary Guard levied, which his Predecessor Sir *Archibald*, and the then Council, upon many good and weighty Considerations, thought fit to disband, and ordained the Neighbours to guard the Town themselves, or send out when it fell to their Tour a good and sufficient Man, but he found there would be some difficulty in it, yet it must be done, because he had a Friend to advance to a Leiutenants Post.

The first thing to be done, is, To make the Watching uneasy to the Neighbours, and therefore, first the Town-Captains are made believe, That it is dis-honourable for them to have any other upon the Guard with them but Masters of Families, and therefore will not accept of Servants or Hired Men upon the Guard, and if any Burger commit such a Mistake as not to come out himself, then his House is poinded till he pay his fine, so that the Magistrats and Council are made uneasy with Complaints and Petitions, and the Hue and Cry is raised for a Guard of stand-Souldiers; But notwithstanding of all this, the Deacon of the Incorporations, did not think fit to adventure upon such a business, without taking the Advice of the several Incorporations, and therefore call'd their Houses, and lays the business plainly before them, (which is to be wished for, were practised more frequently, and then it might go better with the Town's affairs) but the Incorporations declare unanimously against a Guard, which determined the Deacons, and when my Lord Provost proposed the Affair in Council, he finds that it would not do, and therefore lays it aside for that time; but what he could not get effectuat with the Town Council, he resolves to have done another way, and a very fit oppertunity falls in his way for establishing a Mercenary standing Guard in the Town, which he must imbrace to effectuat his de-

ſign although with the ſurrender of the Town's moſt Ancient, if not only now remaining Priviledge; The Matter in ſhort is this :

The Directors of the *African* and *Indian* Company receive Advice of the defeat of the *Spaniards* in the Weſt *Indies* by a party of their Colony of *Caledonia*, for which all the well-wiſhers to that Affair were to put out Illuminations as a teſtimony of their publick Joy. This the Lord Provoſt is Advertiſed of, that his Lordſhip might fall upon Methods to prevent abuſes which are ordinarly committed upon ſuch occaſions, by breaking of Glaſs Windows; his Lordſhip was likewiſe it ſeems Adviſed by ſome of the Neighbours and Members of the Council, that in this caſe a Rabble was to be feared, and therefore timely Methods might be taken to prevent it; he was indeed pleaſed to tell the Town's Captain upon the Guard, that he had heard there was a Rabble deſigned, and that therefore they ſhould take notice of their Guard: But ſure his Lordſhip knew very well, that a Company or two of Men could not be able to ſupreſs it; why might not he had the 16 Companies of Train-Bands upon ſuch an occaſion? who were in a capacity to have made a Line from one end of the Town to the other, and always upon the firſt appearance of a Crowd could have ſuppreſſed them, aud to be ſure no Prentice nor Servant durſt venture to appear, where he knew his Maſter was in Arms, but it ſeems he had no mind to prevent it, but ſuffers Perſons of Honour and Quality to be inhumanely and barbarouſly inſulted by a baſe Rabble, the Kings Priſon broke open, Priſoners of all ſorts for the baſeſt of Crimes condemned juſtly to die, to be ſet at *Liberty*, and his Lordſhip with the reſt of the Magiſtrates ſitting all this Night in a Tavern as idle Spectators, to ſay no worſe of it.

The Lords of His Majeſty's Privy Council taking this Affair into their ſerious conſideration, find they cannot be ſecure of their Lives in *Edinburgh* if this be ſuffered: They therefore acquaint the Provoſt that the Kings Forces muſt be brought in to the Town to keep Guards, one at the Nether-bow-Port, which muſt be from thence foreward kept open, another in the Town-Council-Houſe to Guard the Parliament Houſe, and a Third at the Weigh-houſe to keep a Communication with the Caſtle; but his Lordſhip thought not fit to acquaint the Town Council with this till the Forces were within the Town, and had poſſeſt themſelves of the Nether-bow-Port, that Methods might have been fallen upon to ſatisfy the Privy Council, that the Town ſhould both ſufficiently Guard themſelves, and ſecure their Lordſhips, and preſerve their own Priviledges

ledges; But the Kings Forces being once got in, they must not go out again till the Town Levy a Guard; Which accordingly is done, tho the Town be not as yet freed of Forces, but his Lordship has got his Design *viis & modis* by it.

By what is said it may appear to the World how well he has kept the first two parts of his solemn promise to those that were the chief Instruments of his promotion, There remains only a third part of his promise, which is the last Act of his Government, the chusing of his Successor, which I doubt not he will perform as well as he did the first two, and then he comes off in Coach.

But before he go off the Stage, let us compare his Reign with those of his Predecessors. Sir *John Arnot* is the first we find who endeavoured to subvert this Constitution of the Town, *That no Man should be on the Council above Two Years together, except by vertue of his Office he continue upon it*, which is when a Man has been 2 Years Provost, by vertue of his Office, he continues on the Council a Third Year as old Provost, and then he must go off of course: But Sir *John* violated that part of the Sett, being first 4 Years Successively Provost, and afterwards 7 Years; now that *George Home* has been guilty of the same, we need but out of severals give you this one Example, that Sir *Archibald Mure* having been 2 Years Provost, was one year Old Provost by vertue of his Office and conform to the Sett ought to have been then out of the Council; but the Provost makes interest with the Members, and Elects him a Fourth Year upon the Council; and as some People are pleased to say, with design to continue him yet longer by making him his Successor: Now at this rate although the Sett says plainly that none shall be on the Council above 2 Years together except they be Office-Men or by vertue of their Offices, which I am sure Sir *Archibald* was not this last Year, yet a Man may be perpetuated upon the Council by this Method till the day of his Death: But the best of Men change their Opinion, for it is not many Years since his Lordship entred his Protestation against such an Election.

David Aikenhead afterwards in the Year 1634, to turn out another Man and get himself into the Chair for the Second time, betrays the Towns Liberty and Freedom of Election, by procuring a Letter from the King, ordaining himself to be chosen; but what difference is there betwixt the King's Command and a Great Man's Influence in such an Affair, when he shall please to make it his business, I think I need say but little to make it appear that they are both alike pernicious to the Town's Interest, and exce-

every body knows by what means *George Home* came to his Provostship; these Methods do as much infringe the Town's Freedom of Election, as the King's Nomination.

Sir *Andrew Ramsay* although he did violat and infringe the Sett to keep himself in place, yet was a Man that understood himself to be the King's Lieutenant within the Burgh, and did always mantain its antient Priviledges against standing Forces: One Example I shall only offer of his Zeal that way. An Officer of the King's Forces being to march his Company from the Cannon-gate to the West Port, not knowing the Town's privivildege marched his Company by the neareſt way through the Town; but Sir *Andrew* being accidentally upon the Street, commanded the Officer to march down the first Wynd to the Cow-gate and there with their clubed Musquets, without beat of Drum, to march to the West-Port which accordingly the Officer found it his Interest to do.

I confess in time of War this Priviledge is not so much regarded, there being a necessity to look over it at such times as the King shall have occasion, the Castle being the great Magazin of the Nation.

I shall make no comparison betwixt the present Management and Sir *Andrews*, every body that can see but an Inch before his Nose, I think will be capable to discern it.

As for the management of the Town's Affairs in the late Government, when the Provosts were Nominated by the Kings Letters, and that in 5 or 6 years time there was contracted of Debt 360000 *lib.* if we shall compare these 4 last Years wherein Sir *Archibald Mure* and *George Home* have had the Administration of the Town's Common Good, I am afraid, although this cannot be discovered till these Accompts be Audited, that it shall be found their management has been little better: For at *Martinmas* 1686 the Debt was upwards of 800000 *lib.* as I said before, and now they have 4 Years of the 2 pennies upon the Pint of Ale, which at 48000 *l. per Annum* amounts to 192000 *l.* now if the Towns Debts be reduced to 608000 *l.* the management is good: But if otherways, there must be so much Money spent or sunk unwarrantably, the Town being obliged by the Act of Parliamenr granting the two Pennies upon the Pint, to contract no more Debt, but to retire Bonds to the value of what it is set for yearly, and that this might be done the more effectually, there is a Nomination of some of the Lords of Session and some other Gentlemen in the Act of Parliament, who are impowered to call the Town to an Accompt, and see the state of their Debt, & that the produce of the 2 pennies upon the Pint be rightly applyed.

But

But although we cannot come to an exact knowledge of this Affair before these Treasurers Accompts be Audited, yet there are very shrewd presumptions that it is not altogether applyed in the Terms of the Act of Parliament, for at the granting of this Act Sir *John Hall* did offer to the Town Council, that if they would Asign him to the Two pennies upon the Pint of Ale for 15 Years, for which it was first granted, and to the rest of their common Good he should find the Town security beyond Exception to pay all the Ministers Stipends, mantain all their Fabricks and publick works, pay all their Sallaries and Pensions, not exceeding the Sum they then extended to, and give to the Town Council 10000 *lib per Annum* to defray the common incidents of the Town, and at the end of 15 Years should deliver them the Common Good free of Debt.

But this Proposal did not relish, although he offered Land Security beyond Exception, for the Performance of it; and now tho there be Seven Years of the Fifteen past, I doubt whether the Town be in less Debt than when the Act of Parliament was obtained; To prove which I shall give the following Instance.

The *Society*, which was a considerable Branch of the Common Good, was sold for a considerable Sum, which was thought might have relieved the Town of so much Debt, but it is known to the Auditors of Treasurer *Macklellan*'s Accompts, that the most part of it was employed in payment of Annualrents, which is equivalent to the contracting of so much Debt, and if they cannot pay principal Sums by selling such considerable parts of the Revenue, it is to be feared, that the Two Pennies upon the Pint will be the same way applyed.

May it not then be thought worthy the Consideration of His Majesties High Commissioner, and the Right Honourable Estates of Parliament how far the Magistrates of *Edinburgh* have applyed the several Gifts obtained from the King and Parliament to the ends for which they were granted, and that these Gifts might be called for, and the several Magistrates that have had the Management thereof made accountable therefore.

There is another thing that renders it very suspected, that the Town's Circumstances are not on the mending hand, for although this be the last Year of this Treasurer's Office, yet when he, for several Counsel days successively, was desired to give in an Accompt of what principal Sums the Town was owing, with what Annualrents were yet resting upon the several principal Sums, after many Delays, he at length positively declared, that he did not know the Town's Debt.

This

This is a well qualified Treasurer, who, the Year before he was elected Treasurer, being leited to be a Baillie, did make all the Interest he possibly could, both by himself and Friends, not to be elected Baillie, declaring unto them, that he did not think himself qualified for such a Post, but he improves well in one Year, to be at the next *Michaelmas* sufficiently qualified to be Treasurer.

And lately, when he brought in some Months incident Charges, with a Committee's Report upon them, to be approved by the Council, after reading of the Committee's Report, it was objected by some of the Deacons, that they could not blindly approve of such Accompts, upon the reading a bare Report, without knowing so much as one Title or Article of the Accompts, but desired they might ly upon the Table till the next Council day, that they might have access to peruse them, and that then they would be ripe to give the Vote of their Conscience: But this was refused, whereupon they offered to Protest; but the Provost had no mind to have such a Protestation recorded, and therefore delays the approving of them for that day, and appoints an Hour in the Council Chamber, where the Treasurer was to attend them with his Accompts, and make them patent: And accordingly some of the Deacons and other Counsellors did attend, and begun to go through the Accompts, and were making some Observes upon a Paper apart, as they went through the Articles; but my Lord Provost coming in, and seing one of the Merchant Counsellors there, said, That he did not take him to be a Deacon, and did not understand how he should come there to make Observes upon the Treasurer's Accompts, that if he had attended the Committee, he might there have had all Satisfaction, but that this Appointment was for the Satisfaction of the Deacons, and not of him: To which he very discreetly Replyed, That he was not in Town when the Committee sate upon these Accompts, and that he thought, as a Counsellor, he ought to satisfie himself as well as the Deacons, being to have a Vote in approving them as well as they; upon which the Provost commanded both him and the Deacons to give him up the Observes they had made, saying, That he knew no other Design they had, but to propal the Treasurer's Accompts, and make them the common Talk of the Street.

If I should recount all the little intrigues of Managing the Affairs of *Edinburgh*, this would swell into a great volume; I have only here mentioned a few, to undeceive some of the well-meaning Citizens, who I know are imposed upon, and made believe that things are managed in a

quit

other manner; and indeed it is no wonder the Neighbours be imposed upon, when even the Members of the Colledge of Justice are Blindfolded in a Matter that very nearly concerns them: And that is, In imposing the Watch-money with the King's Cess, and although the Committee appointed by the Faculty of Advocates, to sit with the Stent-Masters, and see that they should not be wronged, were not ignorant of the intrigue of that Affair, yet they did not think it worth while to prey into it, *Sed qui sibi nequam cui bonus*, these are fit Men to be trusted with other Men's Business.

Now, since we see plainly into what a low condition the Common-Good and Affairs of the Town are brought by Men who design more their own privat interest than the good of the Town, and who for that end endeavoured by Faction to get themselves, or their Agents perpetuated in the Management thereof; It is then an incumbent Duty upon every good Citizen to contribute all that lys in his power to get such Men upon the Magistracy and Council, as may manage their Affairs without self designs, Men of publick Spirits; I do not mean Men that desire to be concerned in publick Tacks, thereby to enrich themselves at the Town's Charges, but such as are willing and able to lay aside their own private Affairs for a time, and will make Conscience to improve that time for the retrieving of the Town's publick Revenue, now in a sinking Condition, Men fearing GOD, eschewing Evil, encouragers of Virtue, and haters of Vice, not Time-servers, nor respecters of Persons, but lovers of their Country, and known Well-wishers to the common interest of this City. These are such as those who have a Vote in the Election of Magistrates ought to have in view, as they would not bring a Curse upon themselves and their Posterity; and particularly the Deacons of the Incorporations, they ought to consider, that it is not so much their own Vote they give, as the Vote of the Body they represent, and every particular Member of an Incorporation ought to make it his business to be represented by such a Deacon, as will without Feid or Favour concur with his Brethren in the Electing such Magistrates as are here described: And if a Deacon should be observed to be guilty of the breach of so great a Trust committed to him, it is the Duty of his Incorporation at least to provide a better Man when they have occasion to Elect again.

There is one thing worth the Consideration of the Incorporations, which I think might not only be of use to them, but to the whole City, and as I hinted before, might very much prevent the Continuation of one

ſet of Men upon the Magiſtracy ; And that is, That ſince there is a ſtanding Act of Council, *That no Deacon or Tradeſman upon the Council, ſhould be employed in the Town's work*, they fall upon ſuch Methods as may oblige their Deacons not to accept of the Town's Employment ſo long as they are in Office, the Effects of which are but too well known.

I ſhall conclude with this, That as I have no other deſign in this Paper, but the Good and Welfare of the Town, ſo I hope no good Citizen will take it in ill part: If any Body be offended, and think that ſome things are here divulged that might have been concealed. I Anſwer, That it is the concealing of ſuch Faults as are here pointed at, that has been the ruin of this City, and I hope that may ſatisfie them. I know others will be highly offended becauſe their Characters are put in Print. To ſuch I anſwer, that if ſuch ſort of gentle Correction can bring them to their Duty to the good Town, I have gained my deſign, if otherwiſe and that they ſtill perſiſt in the old Road, I may poſſibly complement them the next year with a New Book Intituled, *The Lives of the Worthies of* Edinburgh.

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